

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3246

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2017

Kisan Credit Cards

Siddeshwara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) issued by the Government during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the average amount of funds transferred to KCCs and the total amount of outstanding loans on farmers, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to waive off the farmer's loan during the last two years; and
- (d) if so, the details and outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance

(a) and (b): Statement showing State-wise number of Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) issued and loan amount outstanding during the last three years under KCC in respect of Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) furnished by NABARD is attached at Annexure I. Statement showing the details of KCCs issued and loan amount outstanding during the last three years in respect of Commercial banks furnished by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are attached at Annexure II & III.

(c) and (d): No scheme for waiver of farm loans has been implemented by the Central Government during the last two years. However, to reduce the debt burden of the farmers, the following major initiatives have been taken:

• With a view to ensure availability of agriculture credit at a reduced interest rate of 7% p.a. to farmers, the Government of India in the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare implements an interest subvention scheme for short term crop loans up to Rs. 3.00 lakh. Under the said scheme, additional subvention of 3% is given to those farmers who repay their short term crop loan in time, thereby reducing the effective rate of interest to 4% p.a. for such farmers.

• Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued master directions on relief measures to be provided by lending institutions in areas affected by natural calamities including drought which, inter alia, include identification of beneficiaries, extending fresh loans and restructuring of existing loans, relaxed security and margin norms, moratorium, etc. The benchmark for restructuring of loans has been reduced from 50% to 33% crop loss, in line with the National Disaster Management Framework. In addition, as per the Priority Sector Lending Guidelines issued by RBI, loans to distressed farmers to repay non-institutional lenders, are eligible under priority sector.

• Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) provides a comprehensive insurance cover against failure of insured crops due to non-preventable natural risks, thus providing financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/ damage arising out of unforeseen events; stabilizing the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming; and encouraging them to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices.

• Post demonetisation, Government has taken the following relief measures for the farmers in the cooperative sector:

(i) An additional grace period of 60 days for prompt repayment incentive @ 3% was provided to such farmers whose crop loans dues fell due between 01/11/2016 to 31/12/2016 and if such farmers repaid the same within 60 days from their due date in this period.

(ii) Interest waiver for two months (November and December, 2016) for all short term crop loans availed from Cooperative Banks between 01.04.2016 to 30.09.2016 and upfront deposit of the same in the accounts of the concerned farmers.

(iii) National Bank For Agriculture And Rural Development (NABARD) raised short term borrowings from the market at prevailing market rate of interest for ₹17,880.78 crore and disbursed the same under refinance for on-lending to Cooperative Banks at 4.5% rate of interest during 2016-17.